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Thursday, January 30, 2014

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Manitoba PC Leader Brian Pallister introduces newly elected Tory MLAs Shannon Martin, left, and Doyle Piwniuk to the media Wednesday. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Newest MLAs welcomed to the legislature

Got the message?

Martin, Piwniuk meet their new colleagues as premier says gov't must show how money raised from sales-tax increase is being spent

Quoted

"Manitobans turned out to vote and send a message to the NDP." PC Leader Brian Pallister

Manitoba's Opposition party welcomed its two new members to the legislature Wednesday.

Shannon Martin and Doyle Piwniuk met their Progressive Conservative caucus colleagues after winning decisive byelection victories Tuesday in the constituencies of Morris and Arthur-Virden.

The Tories took more than two-thirds of the vote in both ridings, while the NDP struggled to get more than 10 per cent.

Premier Greg Selinger told media Wednesday the message he is taking from the byelection results is that the government must show how it is spending money raised from the recent sales-tax increase. He said the extra money is being directed to roads and bridges.

"We'll be accountable for ensuring that revenue goes into key infrastructure that will create good jobs, and those good jobs will lead to a more prosperous Manitoba," Selinger said.

Selinger made the comments as he announced 50 new projects for the 2014 construction season, totaling more than $100 million worth of work.

The government angered many voters when it raised the sales tax to eight per cent from seven per cent last July, and sidestepped a referendum on the issue that is required under the province's balanced budget law.

In a press release sent out after Tuesday's results were tallied, the opposition called the byelection "the closest most Manitobans would come to a referendum on the PST." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Nothing to show for it?
One year since Lake Winnipeg deemed threatened

Lake Winnipeg is celebrating a dubious anniversary.

It's been one year since the Global Nature Fund chose Lake Winnipeg as the Threatened Lake of 2013 worldwide due to damaging blue-green algae blooms, and those fighting to save Canada's sixth Great Lake said Wednesday nothing has been done to reverse the designation.

"If there has been any progress in cutting the amount of phosphorus that is getting into the lake, we don't know about it" says Vicki Burns, spokesperson for the Save Lake Winnipeg Project, in a release.

"We have not seen any data on the annual amounts of phosphorus going into the lake for 7 years, even though government staff is collecting the data every year.

"That is simply too long."

The Save Lake Winnipeg Project is calling for a commitment from all levels of government to invest in upgraded sewage treatment for all Manitoba sources within the next 10 years, and a commitment to release annual data about the amount of phosphorus entering the lake.

"The threats associated with blue-green algae blooms are growing," said Burns.

"We need action now to stop this unhealthy trend. Another year has passed since the Threatened Lake Designation and we still cannot measure any progress." METRO

Sinclair. Province to release report Friday

The Manitoba government says it will release a final report Friday into how social services failed a murdered five-year-old girl.

The government has had the final report from Commissioner Ted Hughes stemming from the inquiry into the death of Phoenix Sinclair for over a month, but said it couldn't release the recommendations until two byelections were held on Tuesday.

Sinclair was beaten to death by her mother, Samantha Kematch, and the woman's boyfriend, Karl McKay, in the basement of their home on the Fisher River reserve. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Phoenix Sinclair
THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

On the mark. Target confirms Polo Park store to open in Winnipeg

Target has confirmed what's been hinted since before the Bombers packed their bags for Investors Group Field — the retail giant is opening up shop at the former site of Canad Inns Stadium.

Target said Wednesday the new Winnipeg location is one of nine that will open across the country in 2014.

"The past year marked a major milestone for Target as we delivered on the unprecedented goal of opening 124 Target stores across ten provinces in 2013," said Tony Fisher, president of Target Canada, in the release.

"As we head into 2014, we will continue to enhance the guest experience at all stores, while continuing to expand our presence in new Canadian neighbourhoods."

Target opened three stores in Winnipeg and one in Brandon in 2013. The Polo Park Target location is scheduled to open in the fall. METRO

City presents U-pass bus plan for students

'Commitment.'
Universal bus pass aimed to start in September of 2016

After a series of sputtering starts, the proposed universal bus pass for Winnipeg's university students appears to be back on track.

Mayor Sam Katz and Coun. Jenny Gerbasi (Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry) authored a motion at Wednesday's city council meeting that would see students at the University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg pay $260 for an eight-month U-pass starting in September of 2016 "or sooner if possible."

The motion also calls on the students' unions at the two universities to hold a referendum before Nov. 1 on the new price point of $260, which would be subject to inflation.

"It is very much in line with what is done in other cities," said Gerbasi, adding she's heard of interest from students at other post-secondary institutions, such as Red River College.

"This is about getting a commitment from city council to support the program if students are on board, and I'm really hoping that they will be."

Gerbasi said the city's subsidy would be just under $2 million, but is expected to result in increased ridership.

Rorie Mcleod Arnould of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association said he's confident that students will support the proposed U-pass, even if it is higher than the $170 and $200 amounts that were previously approved in two referenda.

"We came to a figure that the city feels is appropriate for their budget at this time," he said, adding the $260 is still 50 per cent less than what students currently pay. "It's still a significant savings.… I certainly hope that it resonates just as strongly with students." BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Coun. Jenny Gerbasi said a $260 U-pass for university students is "still a fantastic deal." BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

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City council votes nearly unanimously in favour of an audit of the Winnipeg police headquarters project.
BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Council approves audit of police HQ

'Full explanation.'
Monthly updates on audit will be provided

BERNICE PONTANILLA
bernice.pontanilla@metronews.ca

To be or not to be $17.2 million.

That is the Winnipeg police headquarters cost overrun question that spurred nasty exchanges during Wednesday's city council meeting — a debate that ended with a 14-1 vote in favour of a full external audit.

Mayor Sam Katz repeatedly told council that the cost overrun was $17.2 million, not the $75 million that has been quoted by councillors and in the media.

"It'd be nice to move on; I think I've explained the real numbers, the real number," said Katz, who also engaged in a heated debate with Colin Craig of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation when Craig spoke in favour of the audit.

"I don't think if you have an estimate that hasn't gone out you can actually call it an overrun."

Coun. Jeff Browaty (North Kildonan), one of eight councillors along with the mayor to vote against an audit in November, said that as "a taxpayer I'm angry where this whole process went."

"Now I think an audit is the right choice. Back in November, I was as hopeful that we had enough of the answers that we wanted in the report that was presented by the public service, but in reality the public, and myself, I think we deserve a full explanation," he said.

Both Browaty and Coun. Paula Havixbeck (Charleswood-Tuxedo) said questions remain, including why the original estimates for the project were so far off.

The lone vote in opposition came from Coun. Justin Swandel (St. Norbert), who argued the $500,000 for the audit would be put to better use for the police headquarters.

City council also voted in favour of having monthly updates on the audit provided to them.

Council moves to get Kapyong land for Kenaston widening

City council is wasting no more time on the widening of Kenaston Boulevard, instructing its public servants to negotiate for the land with the two parties already locked in a bitter dispute over the Kapyong Barracks.

A fight over ownership of the 160-acre property at Grant Avenue and Kenaston Boulevard is being waged in court between the federal government and seven First Nations.

The city is also mulling seeking intervenor status in the ongoing court case.

Coun. Justin Swandel (St. Norbert) said there have been discussions between municipal officials and those involved in the Kapyong dispute for years.

"I think for the entire city to see this (case) is frustrating, but I have respect for the rule of law and we understand the arguments that are being made here," said Swandel, who along with Mayor Sam Katz put forward the motion at Wednesday's city council meeting.

Coun. Paula Havixbeck said she wasn't consulted on a motion calling for formal discussions on the Kapyong Barracks and widening of Kenaston Boulevard.
BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Coun. Paula Havixbeck, whose Charleswood-Tuxedo ward includes part of the Kapyong Barracks, said she was disappointed to have not been consulted on the motion. "I think it's really unfortunate we have a mayor who wouldn't even discuss it with the area councillor," said Havixbeck. "That being said, Kenaston is as slow as it can be and it needs improvements, and if this is the way we can do it, then great."
BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Woman found in street

Police investigate suspicious death

Winnipeg police are investigating the death of a woman found lying in the freezing cold on a street in the Chalmers neighbourhood Wednesday morning.

The 41-year-old woman was discovered in the first 100 block of Stadacona Street around 7:40 a.m. and was pronounced dead at hospital. Police are calling the woman's death suspicious, pending the results of an autopsy.

Anyone with information is asked to call investigators at 204-986-6219 or Winnipeg Crime Stoppers at 204-786-TIPS. METRO

Cops searching for suspect

Robber makes fast with fast-food funds

Winnipeg police are looking for a suspect after a man robbed a fast-food restaurant in Crestview Tuesday night.

The suspect made off with an undisclosed amount of cash after confronting staff at the restaurant in the 2500 block of Portage Avenue just before 8:30 p.m.

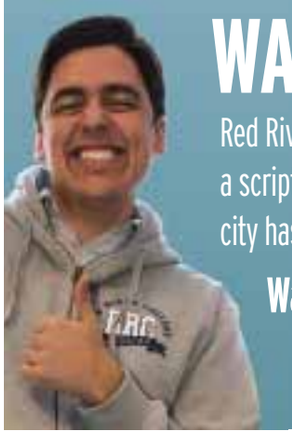
The suspect is described as white with a fair complexion, 30 years old, five-foot-nine, 150 to 160 pounds with an average build.

Anyone with information should call investigators at 204-986-6219 or Winnipeg Crime Stoppers at 204-786-TIPS. METRO

Quadruple

MPI sees third-quarter profits

Manitoba Public Insurance saw their net income quadruple in the third quarter, but expects higher-than-normal winter claims to cut into year-end profits. The public insurer said Wednesday a strong, one-time investment helped them post $64.5 million in net income for the nine months ending last November, up from $15.1 million over the same period last year. However MPI also said winter claims are already far higher than historical levels, and if the trend continues, the influx of claims could bite them next quarter. METRO



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Top spy says Syrian terror group plans to attack U.S.

The al-Nusra Front.
Foreigners reportedly being trained to return home and cause havoc

The Syrian militant group tied to al-Qaida, the al-Nusra Front, wants to attack the United States and is training a growing cadre of fighters from Europe, the Mideast and even the U.S., the top American intelligence official told Congress on Wednesday.

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper told the Senate Intelligence Committee that such al-Qaida groups in Syria have started camps "to train people to go back to their countries."

He said "al-Nusra Front, to name one .... does have aspirations for attacks on the homeland."

Clapper didn't elaborate or offer any evidence.

He said more established groups like Yemen's al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula are still more capable of carrying out attacks against the U.S., but described steep growth in numbers of fighters in Syria.

Clapper said out of an estimated 75,000 to 110,000 rebels battling the government in Syria, some 26,000 are extremists, and about 7,000 of them are foreigners.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korea

Nuke threats real: Report

North Korea has followed through on its threat to advance its nuclear-weapons program — expanding a uranium enrichment facility and restarting a reactor — James Clapper said Wednesday, while a research institute pointed to signs the country is preparing to launch bigger rockets.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ensuring hard work pays off

U.S. President Barack Obama speaks about raising the minimum wage on Wednesday at a Costco in Lanham, Md., the day after his state of the union address. Later, at a U.S. Steel Corp. plant outside Pittsburgh, Obama signed an order to create starter retirement accounts that could be opened with as little as $25 — but acknowledged there's a limit to what he can do without congressional action. CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

East Asia

Historical grudges derail UN debate

The tensions gripping East Asia flared Wednesday at a UN Security Council debate on war and peace.

China, along with North and South Korea, blamed Japan for the deepening animosity and lambasted Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to a shrine where convicted Second World War criminals are buried. Japan insisted it has atoned for its past and rebuked its neighbours for raising their grievances in an open forum with envoys of more than 50 countries present.

An emerging consensus among diplomats was the need to reconcile conflicting historical narratives, which Jordan's ambassador said "can often lie in wait, like dry gunpowder, for a long time." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt

Canadian charged with links to terror

The family of an Egyptian-Canadian journalist imprisoned in Cairo issued an urgent appeal for Ottawa's help Wednesday, as they learned the man had been abruptly charged with being part of a terrorist group.

Mohamed Fahmy was among 20 employees of news broadcaster Al Jazeera who were charged in what's believed to be the first time Egypt has referred journalists to trial for terrorism.

Fahmy was charged with using illegal equipment, broadcasting false news that endangered national security and being a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, a group Egypt's military-led government has branded a terrorist organization, his family said.

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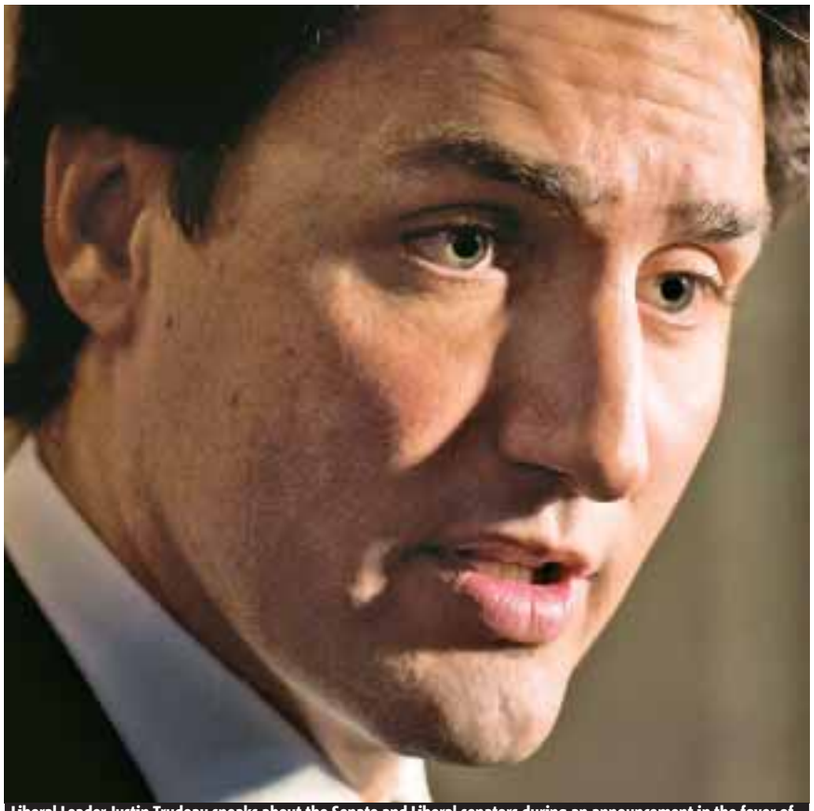

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau speaks about the Senate and Liberal senators during an announcement in the foyer of the House of Commons Wednesday on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Suddenly 'set free' Liberal senators test their freedom

If it walks like a duck... Former Liberal legislators say they will style themselves as the Liberal Senate caucus

Justin Trudeau handed out pink slips to Liberal senators Wednesday, kicking them out of the party's caucus.

The surprise move — announced moments after Trudeau personally informed all 32 of them that they are now "formerly Liberal senators" — is aimed at reducing partisanship and restoring the Senate's intended role as an independent chamber of sober second thought.

"There are no more Liberal senators," Trudeau told a news conference on Parliament Hill immediately after leaving the senators to mull over the implications of his decision.

After the initial shock wore off, the senators emerged from a meeting declaring that they'd been "set free" and praising Trudeau for his bold move. They immediately used their new freedom to contradict Trudeau's assertion that they can no longer designate themselves as "Liberal" senators. And they went further off script by suggesting the move actually won't change much in the upper house.

The confusion allowed Stephen Harper to slough off Trudeau's challenge to follow the Liberal lead and similarly cut loose the 57 Conservative senators. "I gather the change announced by the leader today is that unelected Liberal senators will become unelected senators who happen to be Liberal," Harper scoffed.

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair noted that Trudeau voted against an NDP motion last October which called on both the Liberals and Conservatives to cut their senators loose.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Still Liberals

"We have agreed that we will style ourselves as the Liberal Senate caucus."

James Cowan, leader of the official Opposition in the Senate, pointing out that senators will remain Liberal party members and continue to be friends with elected Liberal MPs.

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Second offensive Vitaminwater cap found

Bad taste. Albertan finds 'Ponder Retards' written inside lemonade Vitaminwater bottle cap

JEREMY NOLAIS
Metro in Calgary

Coca-Cola is facing heated criticism once again for having the word retard printed on the bottle cap of a Vitaminwater container, only this time the "offensive" term surfaced in Calgary.

Thousands lashed out at the beverage giant in September when Metro first reported that Edmonton-based photographer Blake Loates had unscrewed a Vitaminwater cap to find the words "You Retard" printed on it. Making the matter worse was that Loates' younger sister had been diagnosed with both cerebral palsy and autism.

On Tuesday, Calgary resident Braeden Rossell popped the lid on a lemonade Vitaminwater to find the words "Ponder Retards" written on the cap.

Coca-Cola has maintained the words were printed by a machine as part of a promotion to showcase Canada's multiculturalism by pairing an English word with a French one on each bottle cap. The word "retard" in French implies lateness or a delay. The company maintained Wednesday it had destroyed any of the caps on Vitaminwater bottles yet to be sent after the Loates family lodged a complaint, but spokesperson Shannon Denny said Coca-Cola was always aware more unfortunate word combinations could surface.

This is the bottle cap on a Vitaminwater beverage container purchased by Calgary resident Braeden Rossell. COURTESY BRAEDEN ROSSELL

I'm with stupid. Scientists find human DNA contains Neanderthal genetics

Next time you call someone a Neanderthal, better look in a mirror. Many of the genes that help determine most people's skin and hair are more Neanderthal than not, according to two new studies that look at the DNA fossils hidden in the modern human genome.

About 50,000 years ago, modern-day humans migrated out of Africa north to Europe and East Asia and met up with furrow-browed Neanderthals that had been in the colder climates for more than 100,000 years. Some mated, and then the Neanderthals died off as a species.

Scientists isolated the parts of the modern human genetic blueprint that still contain Neanderthal remnants. Overall, it's barely more than one per cent, said two studies released Wednesday in the journals Nature and Science.

However, in some places, such as the DNA related to the skin, the genetic instructions are as much as 70 per cent Neanderthal and in other places there's virtually nothing from the species that's often portrayed as brutish cavemen.

The difference between where Neanderthal DNA is plentiful and where it's absent may help scientists understand what in our genome "makes humans human," said University of Washington genome scientist Joshua Akey, lead author of the paper in Science.

A reconstructed Neanderthal skull at the Museum of Natural History in New York City. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Akey said one of the most interesting parts in comparing human and Neanderthal genomes is where we don't see any caveman influence, such as in areas connected to genes that determine speech and communication. This fits with theories that lack of communication skills hurt Neanderthals and speech ability was a distinctly human advantage, he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Science

Researchers turn ordinary mice cells into stem cells

A simple lab treatment can turn ordinary cells from mice into stem cells, according to a surprising study that hints at a possible new way to grow tissue for treating illnesses like diabetes and Parkinson's disease.

Researchers in Boston and Japan exposed cells from spleens of newborn mice to a more acidic environment than they're used to. In lab tests, that turned them into stem cells, showing enough versatility to produce the tissues of a mouse embryo, for example.

"It's very simple to do. I think you could do this actually in a college lab," said Dr. Charles Vacanti, an author of two papers published online Wednesday by the journal Nature.

Scientists hope that by making stem cells from the patient, they can get around the problem of transplant rejection.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Bieber turns himself in to police in connection with assault charge

Another run-in with the law. Singer is back in the spotlight, but not for his music

Justin Bieber has been charged in Toronto with assault after police allege he hit a limousine driver several times in the back of the head.

Bieber was charged with one count of assault and is scheduled to appear in court in Toronto on March 10.

Police allege Bieber was one of six people who were picked up by a limousine from a nightclub in the early morning hours of Dec. 30, and there was an altercation while en route to a hotel.

Police officers escorted pop star Justin Bieber through a frenzied throng of media and fans to a Toronto police station Wednesday night where the pop star surrendered in connection with an alleged assault.

Hundreds of fans, spectators and photographers braved the biting cold to greet the 19-year-old singer, who emerged from a black SUV Wednesday night. Fans screamed "Justin," as he was led to the side entrance of Toronto Police Service's 52 Division headquarters.

Bieber's surrender is connected to an alleged assault on a limousine driver who was driving the pop star and his entourage in Toronto in December.

A police spokesperson last month said it was unclear whether the teen heartthrob himself was involved in the alleged attack on Dec. 29, or simply one of his companions. Toronto police have not commented on Bieber's Wednesday night surrender.

"He's done some bad stuff, but I forgive him," said Boubacar Diallo, 12, who waited outside the police station to see the singer. "He just needs to think before he acts."

Others showed up for the possibility of a show.

"He should be charged, he's a wreck," said Peter Esper, 18. "He deserves to be punished. He's a bad name for the country."

Bieber's manager, Scooter Braun, tweeted Wednesday evening asking people to "stop passing judgment."

"Clearly he's in a bad-boy phase," said Bob Thompson, the director of the Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture at Syracuse University.

Bad-boy phase

"Not exactly street-cred bad boy. There is kind of a juvenile quality to the whole thing."

Bob Thompson, director of the Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture at Syracuse University

Canadian musician Justin Bieber is swarmed by media and police officers as he turns himself in to city police in Toronto on Wednesday night.
NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thompson said the Stratford-born singer's recent runins with the law, including his arrest in Miami Beach last week and a raid on his California home, reflect Bieber's changing image.

Bieber pled not guilty in Florida after Miami police charged him with driving under the influence, resisting arrest and carrying an expired licence. That incident sparked a petition on the White House website calling on the U.S. government to deport Bieber. More than 138,000 people have signed it.

"He is not only threatening the safety of our people, but he is also a terrible influence on our nation's youth," the petition states.

Because the petition has garnered more than 100,000 signatures, the White House must write an official reply.

At this point, Thompson said, it's anyone's guess where Bieber will go from here — whether this is a prelude to more mayhem or the troubled singer will turn a corner and clean up his act.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Rob Ford sued over alleged link to prison assault

Statement of claim.
Ex-boyfriend of Ford's sister says he was beaten in jail to keep him silent about Toronto mayor's 'unsavoury activities'

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford at a budget debate in Toronto on Wednesday.
ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford is being sued by his sister's ex-boyfriend, who alleges Ford conspired to have him attacked in jail to prevent his illicit behaviours from becoming public.

Scott MacIntyre alleges in the statement of claim filed Wednesday that the mayor arranged for jail staff to facilitate the beating. Video surveillance in the area had been "inexplicably disabled" before the attack and the guards stationed to watch the area didn't come to his aid, MacIntyre alleges.

MacIntyre went to jail in 2012 after being charged with threatening the mayor, for saying he would expose his "unsavoury activities," MacIntyre says in his statement of claim.

It was there in March 2012 that he was brutally beaten, more than a year before reports on the existence of a video appearing to show the mayor smoking crack cocaine.

"Ford's drug and alcohol abuse, and his association with criminals to facilitate his drug abuse … are long-standing," MacIntyre writes in his statement of claim. "Ford was anxious that these matters should remain undiscovered."

The allegations are "without fact or foundation," Ford's lawyer Dennis Morris said.

MacIntyre alleges Ford conspired with Payman Aboodowleh, who coached high school football with Ford, to have one of their former players, who was also in jail at the time, attack him.

The former player, Aedan Petros, was among various inmates who told MacIntyre to "keep his mouth shut," once he was sent to jail, MacIntyre alleges.

The suit also names Ontario's Ministry of Correctional Services, which is responsible for the province's jails, Aboodowleh and Petros.

MacIntyre is seeking $1 million in damages from all of the defendants, plus $100,000 from each of them for aggravated, punitive and penal damages. He is also seeking another $100,000 from the ministry, who he alleges breached his charter right to life, liberty and security of the person.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The donkey defence? VIA terror-plot suspect goes on anti-gay-marriage tirade

A man accused of plotting an attack on a VIA Rail train took aim at homosexuality in court Wednesday, denouncing Canada's "written-by-humans" Criminal Code because he said it protects gay marriage.

Chiheb Esseghaier, 31, was arrested last April 22 on charges of conspiring to derail a passenger train travelling from New York to Toronto.

Esseghaier, who has refused to seek counsel since no lawyer will represent him based on the Qur'an, made a speech on Canada's legal system.

"The Criminal Code is a book written by humans," Esseghaier said. "We are putting the laws of God behind our back and we are following the laws of humans."

Esseghaier's speech came to a definitive end once he began talking about the Criminal Code protecting gay marriage, which he said did not occur between same-sex animals outside of humans.

"Donkey males marry only donkey females," he said, before Superior Court Judge John McMahon interrupted, leading to a tense moment in court.

"No!" Esseghaier shouted at the judge's interjection, causing two seated officers to rise to their feet to maintain order.

Earlier, Esseghaier, who has given off-topic speeches in previous court appearances, complained he was forced to show his "sex" to a guard who was conducting a weapons strip search. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ottawa

Teen pimp found guilty of human trafficking

A 17-year-old girl was found guilty Wednesday of a slew of charges stemming from a teen-pimping ring she orchestrated with two friends in Ottawa in early 2012.

Her guilty charges include human trafficking, procuring for the purpose of prostitution, assault, forcible confinement and uttering threats to cause bodily harm. The girl was 15 at the time of her arrest.

The court heard during the trial that the ringleader and her co-accused lured teen girls and befriended other peers on Facebook and used violence to force them into prostitution.

JOE LOFARO/METRO IN OTTAWA

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Canada Job Grant raises provinces' ire

United they stand. Provinces, territories present feds with 'alternative' to how to fund proposed program

The provinces and territories are firmly resisting a contentious federal skills training proposal, saying they want to see more flexibility before a deal can be reached over the much-touted Canada Job Grant.

They're presenting the federal Tories with an "alternative" proposition that would provide more flexibility to the provinces in how the proposed program would be funded, as well as how small businesses could participate, said Brad Duguid, Ontario's minister of training, colleges and universities.

"I think it speaks volumes that every province and territory remain united on this issue," he said Wednesday in an interview with The Canadian Press. "We have been since Day 1 and continue to be."

The proposed grant, a centrepiece of the last Conservative budget, is supposed to provide $15,000 for each eligible worker, with the cost divided equally among Ottawa, the provinces and employers. Federal Employment Minister Jason Kenney offered in December to cover the provincial portion, but there would be no new money allocated to do it.

The Tories said the provincial portion of the grant would come through the existing Labour Market Development Agreement, which gives provinces money for programs that help jobless people who qualify for employment insurance.

To cover the federal portion, the Tories want to slice $300 million from the separate Labour Market Agreement, which provides provinces with money to train unemployed workers who aren't eligible for employment insurance and is aimed at aboriginals, immigrants, women, youth, older workers, people with disabilities and those with low literacy levels. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Counter-proposal

Brad Duguid, Ontario's minister of training, colleges and universities, declined to provide details on the counter-proposal, which was reached Tuesday but hasn't yet been forwarded to Federal Employment Minister Jason Kenney.

- Duguid did say it would give the provinces more flexibility to be able to take those federal dollars from other non-priority programs, allow them to find the money in other areas, or take them from the Labour Market Development Agreement or Labour Market Agreement.

Use your phone ... to track your phone addiction

This screenshot from Menthal, an app created at the University of Bonn in Germany, shows smartphone-usage figures. Psychologist Christian Montag, who worked on the project, hopes that by measuring how much time people spend on their smartphones the app will help researchers identify and deal with addiction. "This is a live discussion and this will provide data. We are seeking patterns in areas such as tolerance development and withdrawal," he says. CONTRIBUTED/METRO WORLD NEWS

Sears. Struggling retailer cuts 624 workers

Sears Canada Inc. has announced a round of layoffs for the second time this month, eliminating 624 workers.

The struggling company said Wednesday most of the reductions will be in middle management at Sears department stores, affecting an average of five employees per location, Sears Canada said in a release.

The company also said it will rework its regional and head office structure to reflect the latest changes and to align it with the smaller business.

Two weeks ago Sears Canada said about 1,600 positions would be affected as it moved ahead with plans to shutter its three Canadian call centres and reduce staff at its warehouses.

The retailer is trying to reduce costs and improve its overall business as part of a three-year turnaround plan. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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metro

Talons out. Angry Birds home pages hacked after spying allegations

Angry Birds creator Rovio Entertainment Ltd. says the popular game's home pages have been hacked, two days after reports that the personal data of its customers might have been accessed by U.S. and British spy agencies.

A Rovio spokeswoman says the hacking lasted a few minutes early Wednesday and that end-user data "was in no risk at any point."

The hacking came after documents leaked by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden suggested that the NSA and Britain's GCHQ had been able to extract information through a host of smartphone apps across the globe, including the Angry Birds game franchise.

Rovio has denied the claims, saying it does not "share data, collaborate or collude" with any spy agencies and that it would re-evaluate third-party advertising networks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Strained relations. 'Greek' yogurt wars between Fage, Chobani hit latest sour note

It's not all Greek to yogurt makers.

A British court has ruled that Chobani, the company leading the burgeoning Greek yogurt market in the U.S., cannot label its products "Greek" in the U.K. because they are made in America.

Chobani said Wednesday it was disappointed with the ruling, but added that "the fight is not over" and it would continue the legal battle. The court case was brought by Chobani's rival Fage, a Greek company, soon after New York-based Chobani launched their products in the U.K. in 2012. Fage has dominated sales of Greek yogurt in Britain under the "Total" brand for decades. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cheers!

Nova Scotians can get their beer to go at brew pubs

People in Nova Scotia can now buy beer made in-house at brew pubs to take home. THE CANADIAN PRESS

2014 prediction

Auto sales to lightly step on brakes: BMO

A Bank of Montreal economist predicts auto sales will slide to 1.71 million units this year from 1.78 million in 2013. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 89.46¢ (-0.18¢)

TSX 13,643.22 (-44.44)

OIL $97.36 US (-$0.05)

GOLD $1,262.20 US (+$11.40)

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF TOUCHDOWNS

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

It's time for the Super Bowl, the most-watched sporting event in North America and the only reason school children still learn Roman numerals.

Super Bowl XLVIII (or 18 1/2) is coming up this Sunday and it promises to be an exciting match.

The Denver Broncos have a 15-3 record and the league's top offence, but the Seattle Seahawks have a 15-3 record and the league's top defence, so both teams will likely stay in a zero-zero deadlock for hours, parrying every move with a perfectly mirrored countermove just like when superheroes fight their doppelgängers in movies.

We know all about the Big Game, but have you ever wondered how it got this way? No? Then don't read this History of the Super Bowl.

1966: PepsiCo and Kraft Foods create the Super Bowl as a way to sell more food and drink during the slow winter months. Advertisers create an elaborate backstory detailing the "history of American football" that, amusingly, many still believe.

1967: Super Bowl I is held in front of 4,000 screaming fans. Back then the ball weighed 25 pounds, helmets were made of papier-mâché, and no touching was allowed.

1968: Vince Lombardi coaches and wins his last big championship in Super Bowl II, just moments before he is killed in a tragic Gatorade-dumping accident.

1971: Quarterback Joe Namath is given official status as the Default Football Answer for Trivial Pursuit Players Who Know Nothing About Football, a title he will not relinquish until the rise of Joe Montana.

1972: The Miami Dolphins have a perfect season, making them the only 53 people alive with the right to cast the first stone.

1976: Half-time act University of Arizona Marching Band has a mass wardrobe malfunction, with nipples visible all over the place. The fiasco happens in the days before DVR, however, so viewers just say, "Did you see that?" and leave it there.

1986: William "The Refrigerator" Perry becomes the heaviest man to ever score a Super Bowl touchdown. His feat is less surprising when one realizes his background as a member of a daring, highly trained special-missions force whose purpose was to defend human freedom against Cobra, a ruthless, terrorist organization determined to rule the world.

1987: After a strike-shortened series, the Washington Redskins win the Super Bowl when running back John Riggins is the last man standing in an 858-man Royal Rumble.

1991: Reflecting musical trends of the day, frequent half-time performer Up With People is replaced for the first time by Down With Everything.

2008: The New England Patriots lose their first game of the season in the Super Bowl, sending a deluge of "Perfect Season" T-shirts to small villages in South America.

2013: For legal reasons, the half-time show is a lecture by U.S. Surgeon General Boris Lushniak on the dangers of traumatic brain injury.

What might happen this year? Who knows? But one thing is for certain: It's one the best times of the year to "work" in journalism because between the game, the half-time show, the parties and the commercials, it's the one date when four non-stories (four!) fill the news cycle simultaneously. Touchdown!

ZOOM

Up Helly Aa!: Fire in the Shetlands

ALL IMAGES: JEFF J MITCHELL/GETTY IMAGES

The Guizer Jarl, the leader of the squad of hairy, hardy Viking "guizers," walks along the town streets.

Don'tcha wanna know why they keep starting fires?

Thousands of latter-day Viking warriors have descended on Scotland's Shetland Islands to celebrate Up Helly Aa, the largest fire festival in Europe.

Held on the last Tuesday of January, the fiery event sees a replica Viking longboat being hauled through the streets of Lerwick to the edge of town where up to 1,000 paraders (known as the Jarl Squad) throw their flaming torches into the galley. METRO

The origins of the event come from the early 1800s, when, following the Napoleonic Wars, Lerwick was the home of many returning soldiers and sailors, who were keen on burning things to celebrate.

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
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Though there's no shortage of music players or streaming services online, there's still just nothing that rivals the selection of good ol' YouTube. But if annoying ads, senseless playlists and clunky searching keeps you from tuning into YouTube's mega library, Chrome has come to the rescue. Still in beta, Streamus is a new extension that lets users stream from YouTube without ever having to actually go to YouTube.com. Here's how it works:

1: Once you've downloaded Streamus from the Chrome Web Store, type Streamus, then TAB, into Chrome's search bar followed by the song you want to hear.

2: Click the S icon on the right of your browser to add songs and create playlists (don't need a Google/YouTube account!).

3: Once you've heard all your jams, enable the radio by clicking the Wi-Fi-looking icon at the bottom of the playlist.

Twitter

A petition to deport @justinbieber from the U.S. gets more than 100,000 signatures, which means the White House has to formally respond. What should they do?

@55EYFD: Caveat Emptor America!He's your problem now.

@SCCASMOM how about they worry about the shootings at schools and work on their firearms law instead of focusing on a spoiled rich kid?

@WillyRBeek they can do whatever they want, just so long as they don't send him back here!

@AEphotoWPG The US doesn't want him, Canada doesn't want him back. Somalia, perhaps? Beirut?

@justDarylD We'll take him back if they take Rob Ford

@Kossovan Sure! It would make all the Canadian Beliebers happy. Think of the income tax added to our government'scoffer! #JustinBieber

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: winnipegletters@metronews.ca

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There's no better motivator than public humiliation

And a goal without a deadline is just a dream. Musical comedian vows to prove everyone wrong with his song a week project

BACKSTAGE PASS
Jared Story
winnipeg@metronews.ca

After a frustrating 2013, a year that saw him get dumped by his girlfriend and his employer, Winnipeg musical comedian J. Williamez decided to set the ultimate New Year's resolution: Write and release a new song every week of 2014.

Williamez, whose real name is Jeremy Williams, is already four songs into his 52 Songs project, with the funny tunes available at jwilliamez52songs.blogspot.ca. Some of the songs will even include a music video.

"The fear of public shame," said Williams, 36, when asked why he chose such an ambitious project.

"It's the best motivator ever. I'm constantly writing half a song here and a little riff there and then letting it sit, not do anything with it. I thought 'Why not force myself to use that creativity?'

"Steve Vogelsang (former Red River College instructor) said something one time that really stuck with me. He said 'A goal without a deadline is just a dream.'"

An inspired Williams said he's writing songs faster than his one a week goal, and already has four or five tracks in the bank. Williams might have to slow down a little though, as he wants the project to be timely and self-referential.

"As much as possible, I don't just want it to be 52 songs. I want it to be a work of art, where it all interconnects, like Use Your Illusion 1 through 8," said Williams, who is also the frontman of hard rock band The Civil Disobedients.

Williams' musical comedy career started about a decade ago, when he recorded an album of "six or seven dirty songs" for his friends. Soon, he started singing songs like Crack Lady and Oh Chlamydia in public, consequently getting himself banned from venues and booted off Citytv's Breakfast Television.

Williams said he's receiving similar treatment when it comes to 52 Songs.

"Pretty much everyone and their dog who I've talked to about this, no one thinks I can do it," Williams said.

"None of my friends, none of my family, no one thinks I can do this, and that's exactly why I know I will do it. F—k you all, I'm totally going to do this."

Quoted

"It's the best motivator ever. I'm constantly writing half a song here and a little riff there and then letting it sit, not do anything with it. I thought, 'Why not force myself to use that creativity?'"

Comedian J Williamez

Where to listen

Listen to J. Williamez: 52 Songs at jwilliamez52songs.blogspot.ca. Also catch the musical comedian every Monday night at Shannon's Irish Pub.

Musical comedian J. Willamez is writing, recording and releasing a song every week of 2014. CONTRIBUTED

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Red River College is proud to be the only institute of higher education on the world's first locally-branded web series. WindCity, a scripted comedy poised to reposition the perception of Winnipeg, is a bold new initiative featuring the very best of what this city has to offer.
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RED RIVER COLLEGE
AS SEEN ON WINDCITY.TV

Director weaves comic book storylines with harsh realities

Rhymes for Young Ghouls is Jeff Barnaby's first feature film. It opens on Friday in Toronto. CONTRIBUTED

Real life villains. A Mi'kmaq teen in the residential school system takes revenge in Jeff Barnaby's Rhymes for Young Ghouls

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Writing in the Toronto International Film Festival program book, Steve Gravestock said Rhymes for Young Ghouls plays, "as if an S.E. Hinton novel were re-imagined as a righteously furious, surreal thriller."

The self-assured debut feature from director Jeff Barnaby is the story of Aila (Devery Jacobs), a Mi'kmaq teen who is guided by the spirits of her departed mother and brother to exact revenge against a vicious Indian Agent named Popper after she is thrown into the reserve's residential school.

"I think the idea behind what we were doing was to show the enormity of what went on," says Barnaby. "You do want to shock people but not with the content of the film but with the idea that the content of the film actually happened. Most of the reviews have been astoundingly positive but the couple of bad ones that we've gotten have complained about the Popper role, and how over the top it is and how he is like this moustache twisting villain, but if you know the history, these guys had to have existed.

"I suppose you could be polite about saying, 'You can't leave the reserve and you can't go find work and you have to live in this poverty, and by the way, you have to give us your kids.' I'm sure there was an Indian Agent or truant officer somewhere who was really cool about it but at the end of the day these are the acts of evil men."

It's a pop culture savvy movie; a work Barnaby calls "a cinephile's film." A pop culture sponge himself, he says years of influences came together in the making of Rhymes for Young Ghouls.

"I grew up being saturated in everything, comic books, books," he says. "My stepmom was going to university at the time so she was bringing home all these great books, like English poetry, T.S. Eliot and Robert Frost, so I began to appreciate art at a very early age."

Near the top of the influence list are Batman and Conan the Barbarian.

"They are both anti-heroes but they share this idea of not being above physical violence in order to rectify a situation," he says. "They both lost their parents, they're both vigilantes particularly with Conan we follow the storyline of the first Schwarzenegger movie—a religious cult comes along and destroys his family and he goes searching for them and destroys the cult. That is more or less the model we used for Rhymes although very loosely, in the way Scorsese says he used The Searchers for Taxi Driver."

He also cites Scott Hampton's The Upturned Stone, Dashiell Hammett's Red Harvest and Chuck Palahniuk's Fight Club but adds the influences go "through all these filters and by the time it hits the screen what you are trying to emulate has turned into something completely different."

Quoted

"You do want to shock people but not with the content of the film but with the idea that the content of the film actually happened."

Jeff Barnaby, director of Rhymes for Young Ghouls

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Weeks on List: 4

This Week		Weeks on List
3.	MY JOURNEY Olivia Chow	2
4.	THE DEMONOLOGIST Andrew Pyper	3
5.	LIFE AFTER LIFE Kate Atkinson	4
6.	COLD HARD TRUTH ON FAMILY KIDS & MONEY Kevin O'Leary	4
7.	JOYOUS HEALTH Joy McCarthy	3
8.	THE DEAD IN THEIR VAULTED ARCHES Alan Bradley	3
9.	ALL IN Arlene Dickinson	4
10.	DUTY Robert M. Gates	2
11.	STOP OVERTHINKING YOUR MONEY Preet Banerjee	4
12.	THE POUND A DAY DIET Rocco Dispirito	4
13.	FIRST LOVE James Patterson	3
14.	THE START HERE DIET Tosca Reno	4
15.	HAZARDOUS DUTY W.E.B. Griffin	4
16.	DARK WOLF Christine Feehan	4
17.	THE CONFIDENT MOM Joyce Meyer	2
★ 18.	DARK BITES Sherrilyn Kenyon	1
★ 19.	DEADLINE Sandra Brown	1
★ 20.	ALL JOY AND NO FUN Jennifer Senior	1

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Winslet's roles all labours of love

Labor Day. Actress and mother of three has a knack for making brokenness and vulnerability sensual

Kate Winslet stars in Labor Day, which opens Friday. CONTRIBUTED

Before a reporter has barely entered the room, Kate Winslet has defused any formality. After shedding her heels, she announces her exasperation about actors (especially herself) talking about themselves.

"Don't you find yourself nodding off and going, 'Here they go again'?" she asks. "I know that I love my job. I (expletive) hate talking about how much I love my job because how can you talk about that without sounding indulgent?"

She may be a regular honoree at awards shows and a constant presence in prestigious projects from Sense and Sensibility to The Reader. But Winslet has an uncommon candour and easy uninhibitedness that has made her an engagingly down-to-earth personality and a naturalistic actress with quick access to deep emotions.

Winslet was seven-months pregnant at an interview last September at the Toronto International Film Festival, where she debuted Labor Day, a Jason Reitman-directed drama opening in theatres Friday. In December, she gave birth to a boy, her third child and first with her third husband, Ned Rocknroll, the nephew of billionaire Richard Branson. (Winslet has a child with each previous husband, Sam Mendes and Jim Threapleton.)

Parenthood was a particularly obvious conversation subject for Winslet, not just because she was pregnant at the time, but because she has recently strung together a series of memorable, varied portraits of motherhood. It's no coincidence, she says.

"I have been a parent since I was 25," says the 38-year-old Winslet. "That's a large chunk of my adult life. Mother or father, it transforms you completely."

In Labor Day, based on the Joyce Maynard novel, she plays a single mom, Adele, with a 13-year-old son (Gattlin Griffith) in a small New England town. An escaped convict (Josh Brolin) upends their domestic life when he kidnaps them and hides out at their house. But it's not terror that follows: The convict is a gentle, welcome presence in a home that has lacked for a man. Left by her husband after several miscarriages, Adele had turned into a virtual shut-in, but is slowly awakened again by an unlikely love.

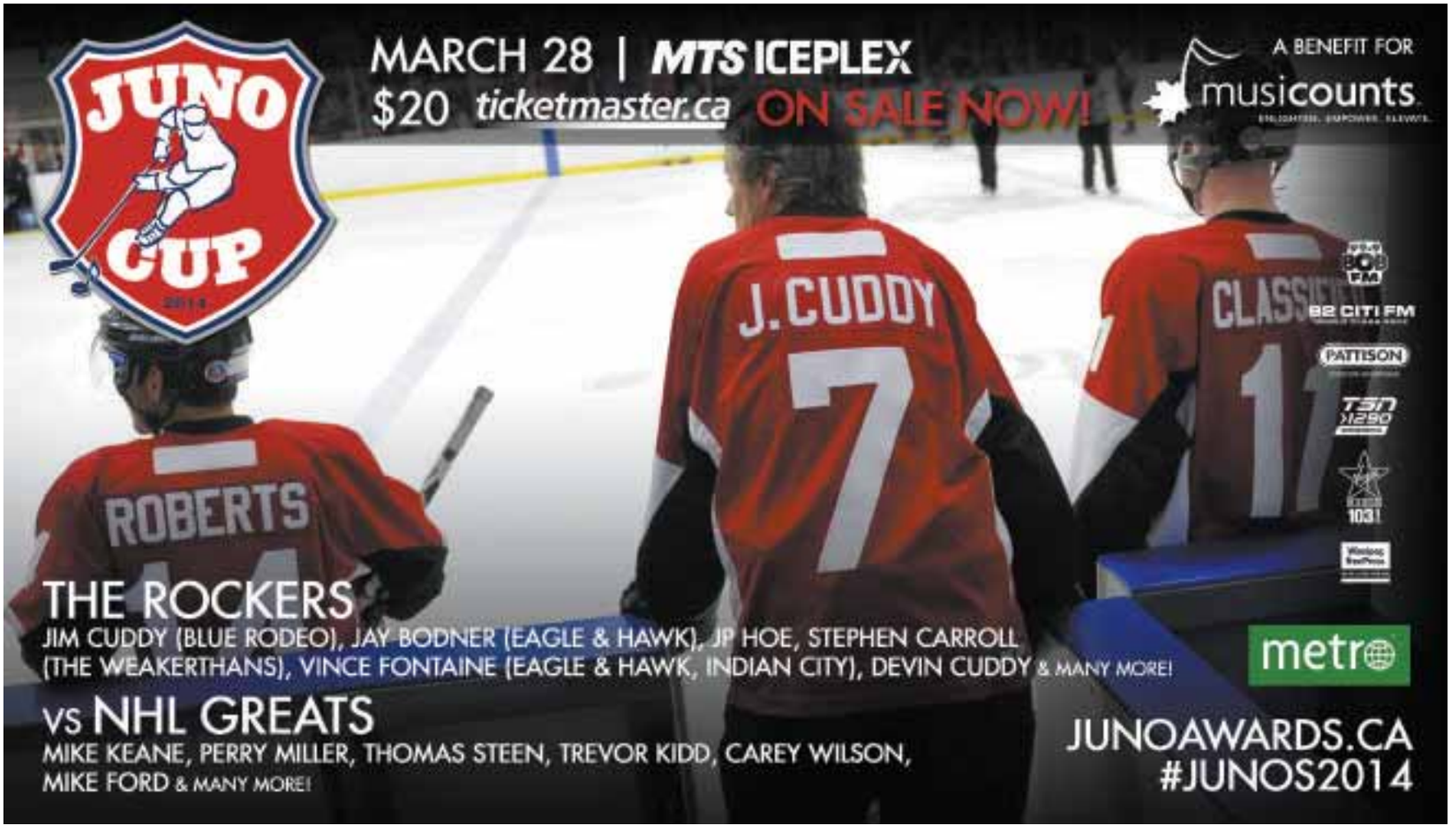
Though playing a mother in movies often means being relegated to the outskirts of the drama, Winslet's characters have had lives that aren't defined solely by children, but remain passionate, complicated individuals.

But the HBO miniseries Mildred Pierce was Winslet's greatest examination of motherhood. She played a striving, Depression-era woman separated from her husband and heartbroken by a spoiled teenager daughter.

"That film kind of almost saved my life," says Winslet. "It came along at a time when I was going through my divorce with Sam. Anyone who's been through divorce will know that every day is really hard. There were days on Mildred where I would just think, 'I don't know how I'm going to get through this day.' Somehow, I think, because the character I was playing was actually my life, it was almost like therapy."

Winslet's acting, though, has been fueled by being an outlet from her more humble day-to-day life. "When I'm not acting, I'm not acting," says Winslet. "I'm being a parent and I'm on the school run and I'm sewing labels onto socks. So when I do it, it's just such a treat. It's such a privilege and such a pleasure. It's almost like my time. It's the one thing I do that's marked for me."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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When things go south, hide out in Canada

Mother Up!
Eva Longoria is loving her new animated series, claiming the animation gives the stories 'more of an edge'

Mother Up! airs Thursdays at 9:30 p.m. on City. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Eva Longoria says she's hoping to inject a little female energy into the world of animated television.

The former Desperate Housewives star says it's one of the reasons she's now doing the animated series Mother Up! for City.

"I've never done a full animated series before. I've done some voice-over work and I thought, 'Oh my God, this would be so much fun to do,'" Longoria said last spring during a stop in Toronto to promote the largely Canadian-made comedy.

"They approached me with the idea of having a female-oriented show, which is non-existent in animation.

You know, you have the Family Guy, you have American Dad, you have The Simpsons, and so there was like a void of female energy within the space."

In Mother Up!, Longoria provides the voice of lead character Rudi, a high-powered Manhattan music executive who is forced to leave her job when a public relations scandal erupts.

She decides to flee to Willowdale, Canada until the heat dies down, and dedicates herself to becoming a full-time suburban mom to her two kids.

Needless to say, the transition is not smooth. Although the hard-drinking, foul-mouthed Rudi is a shark when it comes to juggling needy celebrities and aggressive media reporters, she's a disaster among little ones.

"She thinks her business skills should transfer over to the parenting skills and she doesn't know why it's not working. She really isn't cut from the mom cloth," said Longoria, who also serves as an executive producer.

The cast includes Jesse Camacho of Less Than Kind and Rebecca Husain as Rudi's children Dick and Apple, while Gabrielle Miller of Corner Gas and Clé Bennett of Flashpoint provide the voices of Rudi's pals.

The show was developed by Rogers Media and co-produced by Canadian companies Breakthrough Entertainment and Bardel Entertainment, in association with U.S.-based Mass Animation.

The series is available in the United States through the digital streaming service Hulu.

Longoria said working in animation allows for stories with "more of an edge."

"You can do more in animation than you can in live action," said the petite brunette, whose beleaguered character Gaby on the sudsy Desperate Housewives weathered her share of outrageous trials.

"All the themes and content that we deal with has been heightened because it's an animated show. So we're kind of allowed to do that, which is a lot of fun to be able to do, push the envelope in an animated form."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"You can do more in animation than you can in live action."

Eva Longoria on the creative freedom that Mother Up! offers

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Madonna ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Make way, yet again, for Madonna

Madonna's not done with her recent string of public appearances — she also has signed on to introduce members of Pussy Riot at Amnesty International's human rights concert in New York. The pop singer made the announcement Wednesday morning on social media. She's been busy of late, appearing on Sunday's Grammy Awards with Macklemore & Ryan Lewis and singing with Miley Cyrus during an MTV Unplugged taping Tuesday. Madonna says in a statement that she admires Maria Alyokhina and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova. They were recently released after nearly two years in jail following a conviction for hooliganism when they staged a protest in a Russian church.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The curious ask George

George Clooney indulged fans in a raucous Reddit AMA ("ask me anything") session, and some of his answers were quite revealing — if not entirely serious — especially when it came to good pal Sandra Bullock, who is "an incredibly charming woman who's really just fun to hang out with. Very smart and centered, even though she does drink a lot," he wrote. "It's tricky because Sandy drinks so much that oftentimes it's just hard to keep her upright." Also worth clearing up? The idea that Clooney has "lonely eyes," which he disputes — sort of. "I actually have only one lonely eye. The other eye's got nothing but friends," he replied.

George Clooney

The Word

Grant, in the case of many babies, Hugh are the father!

Hugh Grant is creating quite the army of heirs. It's already been reported that the Love Actually star fathered two children, one in 2011 and one in 2012, with a secret girlfriend, but now sources claim he had another child in 2012 by another woman, according to the Sun. Grant's identity as the father of Swedish TV producer Anna Eberstein's child was kept secret until December, when the one-year-old boy's birth certificate was re-registered with Grant's name on it. "Anna is being supported by Hugh all the way," a source says. "She lives in a very comfortable property and knows that Hugh is there for her. Anna's parents in Sweden know all about the relationship and she has their blessing."

Twitter

@ricky_martin
My friend, it's all about learning, it's all about growing. Don't stop.

@lindsaylohan
snow adventures!

@Mruff221
My 8 Yr old's response to Presidents plan:fight Climate Change, push more Fossil Fuel Extraction,"that doesn't sound very smart."

Grab the no-name tea and crumpets this time

Queen Elizabeth II

It looks like Buckingham Palace is facing a financial crisis of its own. According to a report by the Commons Public Accounts Committee, Queen Elizabeth II and the rest of the royal family are "spending above their means and dipping into the reserves. The balance now stands at an all-time low." So naturally some cost-cutting measures are being considered. "The Queen is always looking for ways to cut back," CNN's Victoria Arbiter says. "I think they are going to have to look at ways they can get creative in that way, whether that is opening up more palaces or more private rooms or more areas that have not been open to the public before."

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Stock style is on the rise

As the star of The Wolf of Wall Street, Leo gave us a look into the rich man's closet. CONTRIBUTED

Man à la mode. In homage to infamous banker Jordan Belfort, we've put together the '90s cut. It's time to take a gamble in the broker's best.

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News

Alden

leather penny loafers, $829, brownsfashion.com

Ben Sherman

paisley tie, $70, bensherman.com

Paul Smith London

Kensington slim-fit pinstripe suit, $1,690, mrporter.com

Nixon

The Spur, $300, nixon.com

Trends Report

Valentine's 2015 is going to be a special day for many of you — that's the release date for the Fifty Shades of Grey movie! Even if you're not a fan of the erotic novels, grey-toned fashion and accessories are expected to be a huge trend this spring. Go online to Trends Report and see how you can look sexy in many shades of grey.

- Online. Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetroIreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Vancouver

Name: Anna Kosturova

Age: 45

Occupation: Clothing designer

What she's wearing: Scarf by Isabel Marant for H&M, coat from Aritzia, shoes and bag from All Saints, jeans from GAP, shirt from Joe Fresh, sunglasses from H&M.

Her inspiration: "Classic with a twist of rock 'n' roll"

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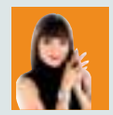
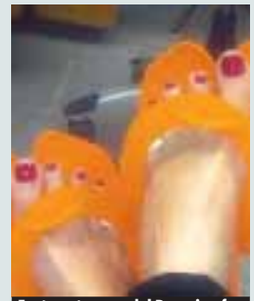


JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.



Feet up+toes ready! Prepping for tomorrow's "shoe shoot"+getting excited about my cool new collection this spring.

Gonna miss my girl! My @Chanel Brick Bear is going off to @DesignExchange for #ThisisNotaToy curated by @Pharrell

ELLE 3

Five Super Soups

Nobody does it better than Winnipeg's Asian restaurants. It's cold in Winnipeg, really cold, and there's no better way to warm up than with a hot bowl of soup. Here are five of the city's best options.

SHEL ZOLKEWICH
River City Kitchen
winnipeg@metronews.ca

It's the winter that just won't give us a break. If you're tired of being chilled to the bone, it's time to wrap your hands around a steaming bowl of soup, inhale those exotic aromas and lift a spoon in the name of impending warmth.

Spicy Coconut Chicken Vermicelli, Pho #1, 81 Isabel St. (204) 943-7449

When your bowl arrives, take a good smell to get all the spiciness into your nose. That's the first gift from this creamy yellow concoction. And it just gets better from there.

Sweet and Sour with Shrimp and Mixed Vegetables, Binh An, 1076 Main St. (204) 582-6633

Owner Binh Le's broths are tops. As the name suggests, his sweet and sour soup is both, and packed with chunks of just-cooked tomatoes, pineapples and peppers.

Spicy Beef Satay, Ha Long Bay, 772 Notre Dame Ave. (204) 775-5777

It's the chopped cilantro and onions that will first make you smile. Then comes the paper-thin beef in a just-spicy-enough broth.

Hot and Sour, Viva, 505 Sargent Ave. (204) 772-3167

It's threaded with mushrooms and tiny bits of pork, but it's the thick broth that makes it special. Get your own bowl. You won't want to share.

Coconut Soup with Shrimp, Magic Thailand, 842 Logan Ave. (204) 774-0839

They'll ask you how hot you want it on a scale of one to 10. Seven is my limit—just spicy enough to let the flavours of lemongrass, mushroom, peppers and shrimp shine through.

Shel Zolkewich writes about food, travel and the outdoors when she's not eating, on the road or playing outside. Got a food story idea? shel@shelzolkewich.com

Coconut, lemongrass and shrimp soup from Magic Thailand hits the spot on a chilly day. SHEL ZOLKEWICH/FOR METRO

What's **your** cupcake personality?

Find all the recipes at
CanolaEatWell.com

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Your very own Super Bowl rings — kind of

FLASH FOOD

From your pantry to your table in 30 minutes or less

This recipe serves four to six. ROBIN SHARPE, FROM THE CANADIAN CRAFT BEER COOKBOOK (WHITECAP BOOKS)

"Compared to fries, when hand-dipped and made to order, onion rings are difficult for a restaurant to manage well," writes David Ort in The Canadian Craft Beer Cookbook. "I'll be honest that these aren't an everyday recipe for me, but if you're going to indulge, make sure you do it right.

"Surrounding hot slices of onion, the banana, orange and clove flavours in the witbier will brighten and concentrate. I use red onion for this recipe because I'm a bit of an oddball. Spanish onions are more traditional and are a good choice if you can't find a big enough (noticeably larger than your fist) red onion."

1. Lay out two cookie sheets and place a wire rack on each. This rig will work both for letting excess batter drip away and to cool the rings once they come out of the hot oil.

2. Set a Dutch oven over medium heat and fill with 2 inches (5 cm) of oil. Heat the oil to 375 F (190 C).

3. Pour the cold beer into a medium mixing bowl. Use a fine-mesh strainer to sift the flours into the beer. Add baking powder and salt, and mix to combine, but be careful not to overmix. Put slices of onion in a resealable bag or lidded container with the 2 tablespoons (30 ml) of rice flour and shake to coat the onion lightly.

4. Use tongs or chopsticks to transfer onion pieces from flour to batter and then to the racks set over the cookie sheets, where excess batter can drop off.

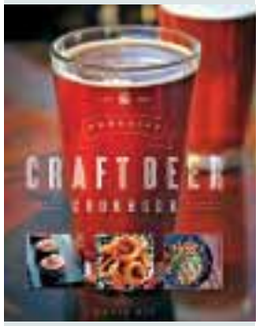
5. Transfer the battered rings to the hot oil and continue to monitor the oil's temperature. Work in batches that are small enough to not crowd the pan. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes a side or until rings are deep golden brown. Hold cooked rings on a clean wire rack while you fry subsequent batches. Season the rings with fine sea salt immediately after they come out of the hot oil. **RECIPE EXCERPTED FROM THE CANADIAN CRAFT BEER COOKBOOK (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY DAVID ORT**

Ingredients

- 5 cups (1.25 l) peanut or rice bran oil
- 1 cup (250 ml) witbier, cold
- 2 oz (60 g) all-purpose flour (about 1/2 cup/125 ml)
- 2 oz (60 g) rice flour (about 1/4 cup/80 ml) plus 2 tbsp (30 ml) for dusting rings
- 1/2 tsp (2.5 ml) baking powder
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) fine sea salt
- 1 large red onion, cut into 3/4-inch (2 cm) slices

Cookbook of the Week

You love to drink it, now cook with it



Craft beer has soared in popularity and now David Ort offers an introduction to it and a broad range of recipes that use craft beer as an ingredient.

The Canadian Craft Beer Cookbook includes starters and snacks, noodle and rice dishes, seafood, meat and poultry; and even beer cocktails, sweets and desserts.

Each recipe includes a recommendation for a specific Canadian craft beer as the beer ingredient.

Among the recipes are: Tabbouleh, Clam Chowder, Jerk Chicken, Lamb Shank, Brownies, Rice Pudding and more. **METRO**

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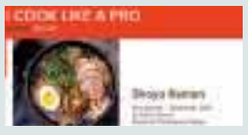
MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
life@metronews.ca

With an impressive revamp, this old favourite seems new again.

A better layout combined with a recipe box, shopping list, helpful categories, and voice controls makes collecting recipes a delight.



PREPARE TO BE A-MAZED WINNIPEG

TAKE PART IN UNIQUE PUBLIC ART PROJECT

CONTRIBUTED

Be the first to experience Downtown Winnipeg's inaugural building of a public snow maze.

Join the Downtown Winnipeg Biz, Winnipeg Public Library – Millennium Branch and the Winnipeg Arts Council at Millennium Library and Park (251 Donald) Feb. 1 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. to embrace the beauty of winter.

SnowMaze is a unique public art project that invites you to join in on the fun and create an art-inspired community snow maze. The event not only includes the creation of this maze, but also hosts a myriad of family-friendly activities such as crafting, story reading, warming up with a cup of hot chocolate and more. This free event is open to all.

The host teams encourage you to bring your shovels to enable you to participate in the main event — crafting Winnipeg's first-ever maze out of snow bricks.

"It's always fun to see involvement in public art, especially created in such a festive way," says Carol Phillips, executive director of the Winnipeg Arts Council. "Our public spaces are the perfect places to engage the community with art, and it's wonderful to see the Millennium Library Park being used year-round."

Come out and enjoy some outside winter fun while appreciating some of the city's most beautiful public art. Inspired by the public art piece Sentinel of Truth, which features quotes from literary works, the snow maze will also feature book-inspired children's art panels.

"Winnipeggers have been finding offbeat ways of celebrating this unlikely confluence of deep freeze, social history and their own cheerful can-do nature," says Stefano Grande, executive director of the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ. "We invite Winnipeggers to come downtown to build our first lifesize winter maze."

For more, visit winnipegarts.ca.

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Add a splash of colour

It's time to inject some fresh hues and patterns into our homes, and there's no better opportunity to do it than while we wait for spring to arrive. So start waking up that tired, neutral decor scheme with shades ranging from strong to muted. These product picks, reminiscent of mid-century modern style, are pops of colour that can suit both modern and traditional interiors.

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

This sofa by designer Bethan Gray creates womb-like curves that offer a plush, padded welcome with a late 1950's vibe. The springtime blue, linen-like fabric is also stain resistant. Pennie sofa, $1,260, crateandbarrel.com.

Sagaform's oversized coffee cups and saucers add a variety of colours to your dining table. Mix and match with the dish line to create a casual table service. POP coffee cup with saucer, $18, eq3.com.

Owls still dominate the animal-decor kingdom and are the who's-who on this embroidered cotton pillow. Owl on Branch toss cushion, $32, Urban Barn.

Shower with the world's largest paint chips in a retro monochrome scheme. Shades Of Blue shower curtain, $20, simons.ca.

Add some spring green and orange to the floors with a cotton-viscose rug inspired by the spice colours of India. Fab dhurrie, 4 x 6 feet, $475, ecarpetgallery.com.

Add the year's hottest shade to your bathroom and show guests you're on top of the colour trends — even if it's just in a washcloth. Lacoste Croc Wash berry washcloth, $13.50, thebay.com.

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RICH, INVIGORATING HUES FOR 2014

The DULUX® brand has given new meaning to the words "fresh paint" with the unveiling of its 2014 paint trends forecast. The colourful palette is filled with rich, invigorating hues that represent renewal and refreshing change, says the leading Canadian paint brand.

"After four economically-difficult years, people are starting to let out their collective breath and are ready for new beginnings, which is translating into a movement towards fresh and creative colours," says Martin Tustin-Fuchs, brand manager for DULUX paint. "As a result, we'll see novel shades and unexpected combinations of colours in the year ahead in all areas of home decor."

Here is what's trending in each colour family:

Reds: The berry tones of the past few years are being replaced by vibrant reds with orange undertones. Think tomato red, a tangy attention-grabbing colour that pairs well with warm browns, spicy oranges, and golden yellows.

Oranges: Terracotta and spice hues will be all the rage in the coming year, moving away from the melon and pink-orange tones of seasons past.

Sea Isle Green

Tender Rose Red

Omega Yellow

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Yellows: Trendy yellows for 2014 range from gentle pastels to cheery brights to antiqued golds, all exuding an air of warmth and optimism.

Greens: Building off the growing popularity of emerald and teal, the 2014 greens take their cue from lavish jewel tones. Leaning more towards blue than yellow, the hottest green shade for the year is cool mint.

Blues: Oceanic blues will take centre stage in the blue family over the coming year. From deep, Mediterranean Sea-like colours to tropical Caribbean tones and the airy, ethereal hues reminiscent of the Earth's atmosphere, the new blues take on a natural dazzle.

Violets: Purples will move in two different directions in 2014, towards both red-purples and blue-purples. Those with reddened undertones are vibrant and daring, while blue-tinged violets are soft, diluted and retreating.

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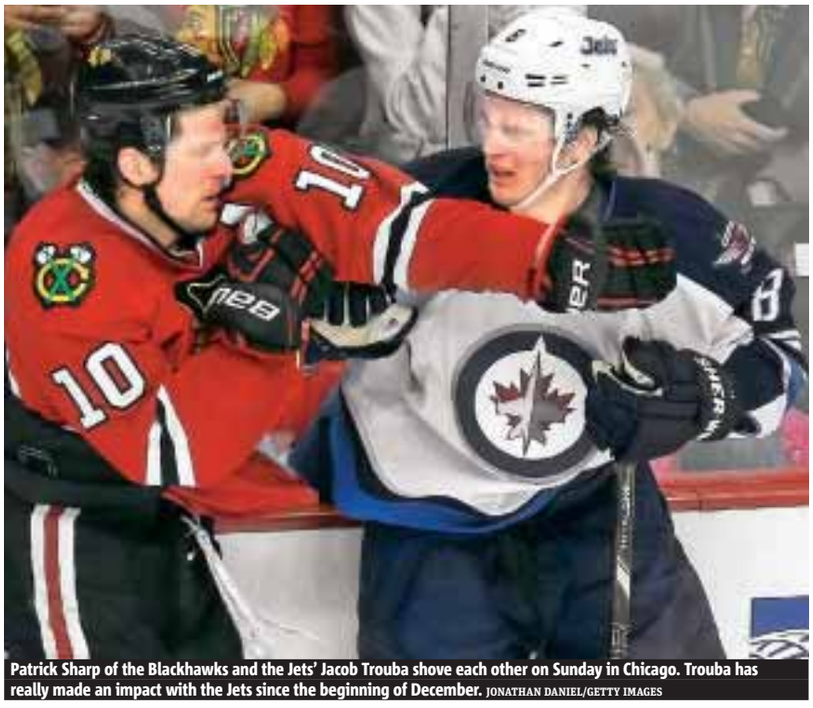
Passing along savings is what keeps customers coming back time and time again. The successful business model in maintaining low overhead and smart buying practices enables Mattress Warehouse and More to sell quality products at a competitive price. And with its low price guarantee, you can shop with confidence in knowing that if, by chance, you find a similar product elsewhere for less, Mattress Warehouse and More will gladly match the price.

For a great night's sleep, look no further than Mattress Warehouse and More and experience the difference in quality and selection. Visit the convenient showroom located at 15 MacDonald Ave.

You'll be glad you did.

It's Trouba times for the Jets and Maurice

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Matt Larkin
winnipeg@metronews.ca



Patrick Sharp of the Blackhawks and the Jets' Jacob Trouba shove each other on Sunday in Chicago. Trouba has really made an impact with the Jets since the beginning of December. JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

It's been a largely refreshing month of January for the Winnipeg Jets. Sure, Evander Kane's hand infection is a concern, but let's accentuate the positive: Coach Paul Maurice has been a revelation.

The Jets are 6-2-0 since he took the coaching reins from Claude Noel. Under Maurice it seems various key cogs on the team are emerging from their funks. Ondrej Pavelec is finally stopping some of those pucks constantly peppered his way. Dustin Byfuglien is making a splash as an immovable forward instead of giving us heart palpitations on defence. Mark Scheifele has crept into the Calder Trophy race. Blake Wheeler has found his goal-scoring touch.

That's all good news and it's hard not to connect it to Maurice. With respect to the veteran coach, however, there's another person who deserves significant credit for Winnipeg's turnaround. He's a rookie, he's 19 years old and he plays defence. His name is Jacob Trouba and he's emerging as something special.

At 21:40 per game, the hulking American is now the NHL rookie leader in ice time per game. Not Seth Jones, not Hampus Lindholm.

Playing on the second pairing with Mark Stuart, Trouba is showing do-it-all skills in the mould of a young Chris Pronger.

Superlative, sure, but Trouba has similar pedigree to Pronger at this juncture of his career as a behemoth defenceman drafted in the first round with a mean streak and a big shot.

Trouba's rookie season started slowly, as a neck injury shelved him for 17 games, but he's really taken off since the beginning of December.

In that stretch, Trouba has six goals, 18 points and is a plus-12 over 27 games. Triple those numbers to 81 games, almost a full season, and you get an 18-goal, 54-point, plus-36 blue-liner. Trouba is flashing the ability to take over games.

Sure, Trouba is insulated from opponents' best forwards playing on the second pairing, but now is not the time for pessimism.

He'll still take his lumps and is bound to slump as he adjusts to the rigours of a full season, but he's playing at an elite level right now. He's a downright scary talent who hits, hammers the puck, skates like the wind and blocks shots.

He does it all and if I'm a Winnipeg Jets fan, I'm extremely excited at the thought of building around Jacob Trouba.

And hey, Team Canada, get your gold medals in while you still can. Imagine facing a top-two of Trouba and Seth Jones at the Olympics in 2018 or 2022. Gulp.

NHL

Coyotes proceed with name change

The Phoenix Coyotes will go by a different name next season.

Anthony LeBlanc, the club's co-owner, president and CEO, announced Wednesday the franchise will change its name to the Arizona Coyotes next year.

The franchise has been known as the Phoenix Coyotes since relocating from Winnipeg in 1996.

As part of the name change, the Coyotes will feature a new shoulder patch for their home and road jerseys in 2014-15. It will be unveiled for the team's first exhibition game next season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL

Argonauts release Collaros

Zach Collaros won't have to wait until the start of CFL free agency to find out how much he'll be worth on the open market.

The Toronto Argonauts released the backup quarterback Wednesday, more than two weeks before Collaros was scheduled to become a free agent. Instead of having to wait until Feb. 15 to begin weighing outside offers, Collaros is free to start testing the waters immediately and sign with the team of his choice.

The move wasn't a total surprise. Last week, Argos GM Jim Barker suggested Collaros would test CFL free agency rather than re-sign with Toronto prior to the deadline.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jets stay realistic ahead of Canucks clash

Jets coach Paul Maurice talks to Bryan Little, left, and Andrew Ladd during a game against the Coyotes on Jan. 13. MARIANNE HELM/GETTY IMAGES

For centre Olli Jokinen, one loss does not cause a confidence-shaking setback despite the Winnipeg Jets falling back into the Central Division cellar following a 4-3 loss to Nashville Predators on Tuesday night.

"It's not going to be our last game we lose, we're not going to win every game," Jokinen said Wednesday, joining most of his teammates taking the day off to rest or work out in preparation to face the Vancouver Canucks on Friday.

"I think as a team we're moving in the right direction and we just try to get our energy levels up and try to get a win Friday," he added.

The Jets' coaches and a handful of players were on the ice Wednesday but things will get more serious Thursday as the squad gears up for another important game against a Western Conference rival.

Although they've gone 4-5-1 in their last 10 games and lost 4-2 to Edmonton on Monday, the Canucks (27-18-9 before playing Chicago on Wednesday) are at least currently where the Jets want to be — holding down the eighth and final Western Conference playoff spot.

The Jets stand 12th, eight points behind the Canucks before Wednesday's action. They have plenty of distance to cover and not much time to do it as they head into the Olympic break. After Friday's game they play four more road contests before the Olympics, then return Feb. 27 at the MTS Centre. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Slalom. Water? Snow? Mielzynski can ski on it

Canada's Erin Mielzynski loves being on skis — either on water or the slopes.

She's in her seventh year on the national alpine team but part of her foundation in the sport was built during her younger days when she'd water-ski on the lake at her family cottage.

"That's what we did five times a day, every day of the summer," the Guelph, Ont., native said. "That's what I loved doing. I was more trained as a water-skier."

It was on the water where Mielzynski developed the "twitch muscles" that have served her so well on snow. She would often focus on trick skiing and try to squeeze in as many moves as possible in a 20-second run.

That training helped her when she made the full-time transition to skiing on snow.

"Slalom is a very fast twitch, you do more than a gate a second and that's I think why I started to excel," she said in a recent interview. "I can find the rhythm of a course and create the power that's needed in that quick second."

Mielzynski skied the slopes of Georgian Peaks as a youngster, not far from her current hometown of Collingwood, Ont. She tried all the alpine disciplines in her formative years but really excelled at slalom.

"People noticed more talent there I think, more natural talent," she said. "So that's what I focused on. Now I'll bridge back out to what I was doing before too. I'll use what I've learned in my slalom to get better in the other events. That's how I made the team and so we stuck with that for a few years."

Erin Mielzynski
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Mielzynski, now 23, water-skied at an elite level as a teenager. She competed in the junior world championships in 2006 and won silver in the jump competition.

Two years later, she got word that she had made the national alpine ski team.

"So I made the switch over and I gave (water-skiing) up cold turkey."

Mielzynski made her World Cup debut in the 2009-10 season and made the Olympic roster for the Vancouver Games. She feels the experience that came along with her 20th-place result will serve her well in Sochi. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Zigging and zagging to the podium

Erin Mielzynski had a breakout 2011-12 season. She won gold in Ofterschwang, Germany, to become the first Canadian since Betsy Clifford in 1971 to win a World Cup women's slalom race.

- She followed that up the following season with a World Cup bronze in Zagreb, Croatia.

This Super Bowl 'was meant for tough guys'

NFL. It's Denver's historic offence against Seattle's No. 1 defence with championship up for grabs on Sunday

That old maxim about defences winning championships has been spread on pretty heavily during Super Bowl week.

By the Broncos, of all teams.

Yes, the very same AFC champions who tore up the league with a record 606 points, 55 touchdowns coming off Peyton Manning's arm, have been touting how strong their defence has become.

Measure it against Seattle's unit, which allowed a very miserly 231 points and ranked first against the pass and in overall D, and the Broncos would seem to be whistling a hollow tune.

But linebacker Danny Trevathan, a breakout player in his second NFL season, sees plenty of greatness in his defence, too.

"Oh yeah. You are supposed to have that attitude," Trevathan said. "On defence you're not supposed to let guys push you over. You are supposed to be the aggressor on defence and you are supposed to have that attitude. I think that is what makes playing defence so passionate to me.

"I think this game was meant for tough guys. You can't be soft out here."

No one is soft on either of these teams, of course. On the contrary, it's only the second time in 20 years that the top seed in each conference got this far.

It's also that classic matchup that so excites fans, media and, yes, players. The Seahawks can't wait for the chance to test themselves against Manning, seeking his second ring in an almost-certain Hall of Fame career.

"It's going to be a great challenge," middle linebacker Bobby Wagner said. "They're talented all across the board. They protect Peyton well and they run the ball well. He's definitely passed the ball well. It's up to us to do our jobs and make sure that we come ready to play."

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Notes from New Jersey

- **Not so cold.** As of Wednesday, no snow, or even rain, was being predicted by the National Weather Service for Sunday. The high is expected to be 3 C, which would make it the coldest of the 48 Super Bowls so far.
- **What's in a name?** "I had to admit, it was pretty catchy," says Seahawks safety Kam Chancellor on the team's "Legion of Boom" nickname.
- **How's her arm look?** Peyton Manning visited brother Eli at his home in Hoboken, N.J., on Tuesday night, but the topic of conversation wasn't the upcoming Super Bowl. Peyton got to meet and hold his seven-month-old niece Lucy for the first time.

Seahawks star cornerback Richard Sherman speaks to reporters on Wednesday in Jersey City, N.J. JEFF ZELAVANSKY/GETTY IMAGES

The Broncos work out on Wednesday in East Rutherford, N.J.
MARK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beast Mode saves his breath for the big game

Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch at a media availability on Wednesday in Jersey City, N.J. JEFF ZELEVANSKY/GETTY IMAGES

Beast Mode was Least Mode again.

Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch abruptly ended his media availability — again — walking away from a throng of reporters while escorted by a member of the New Jersey State Police on Wednesday after about seven uncomfortable minutes in which he answered just a few questions.

The elusive Lynch, who created a stir at media day Tuesday by talking for only 6 1/2 minutes, writhed in his seat and leaned his head back at times.

His actions do the talking

"He gets it done on game day."

Seahawks fullback Michael Robinson on Marshawn Lynch's production on the gridiron in contrast to his participation during media events.

A few dozen reporters, lined up as much as five deep, tried to ask questions during the players' 45-minute availability at the team hotel.

"I really don't have too much to say, boss," Lynch said in a tone barely above a whisper. "I really don't. I appreciate it, but I don't get it. I'm just here so I won't get fined, boss. That's the only reason I'm here."

Earlier this month, Lynch was fined $50,000 for not cooperating with the Seattle media. The NFL put that fine on hold, saying it would be rescinded if he complied with media obligations. During media day, Lynch spoke for 6 1/2 minutes before leaving, then returning to speak to Deion Sanders for NFL Network, to the Seahawks website, and to Armed Forces Network — and acknowledged he was trying to avoid being fined by the league for not meeting his media requirements.

It didn't appear Lynch would be fined, for either Tuesday or Wednesday.

"Players are required to participate and he participated," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said in an email to The Associated Press. "His comments of the past two days have been widely circulated."

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Weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAX: -20° MIN: -24°	MAX: -17° MIN: -22°	MAX: -18° MIN: -22°

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Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

		9	2			6		
8	3			4	6			
5			3				1	
4				7				9
		2				8		
9				6				3
	5				7			1
			6	8			7	5
		4			9	2		

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	3	2	9	6	4	5	1	7
7	4	6	5	1	2	3	9	8
1	9	5	3	7	8	4	6	2
5	7	3	8	4	6	1	2	9
9	6	8	2	5	1	7	3	4
2	1	4	7	9	3	6	8	5
3	5	7	6	8	9	2	4	1
6	8	1	4	2	5	9	7	3
4	2	9	1	3	7	8	5	6

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
This will be a very enjoyable day and it will be more enjoyable still if you don't waste time worrying what others might think about what you are doing — or who you're doing it with!

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If you need to ask a favour of someone in a position of authority, now is the time. Cosmic activity in the career area of your chart makes it easy for you to approach employers and important people today.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If others want to take control and decide what you are going to do together, you should let them. Today's new moon means you can afford to sit back and let partners make the difficult decisions.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Try to take things easy today because if you tire yourself out, physically or intellectually, it may take a while to recover. You don't need to be as intense as you usually are. Everything will turn out for the best no matter what you do.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Whatever goals you set over the next few days, you will reach them with ease. But don't spend all your time and energy on work: This is potentially one of the best days of the year for affairs of the heart.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Something you've been worrying about for weeks will resolve itself in your favour, thanks to the new moon. Your relief will be huge but there is a lesson too: Nothing is worth getting too worked up about.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You can sense that something marvelous is going to happen over the next 24 hours but you don't know what it is. Whatever it happens to be, make the most of it. Marvelous things rarely stay marvelous for long.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
No matter how badly someone may have let you down, you must forgive them. There is no point holding a grudge, not when there are so many wonderful things going on in the world. If you're not smiling, you're doing it wrong.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You should be feeling more relaxed about life now and today's new moon will put you in the mood to go out and have fun with your friends. Partnerships and relationships will make you happier than you ever thought possible.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Good things will come your way without you having to do very much at all to attract them. Having said that, don't give away any personal information and don't try too hard. Just let it happen.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today's new moon in your sign marks this out as the perfect time to start something new and exciting, something you always wanted to do but never before had the courage to begin. Well, now you do – so get on and make it a triumph.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Why do you let doubts hold you back? You've got to be more ambitious and more adventurous. This could be the day when your life changes for the better — but only you can make it happen. SALLY BROMPTON

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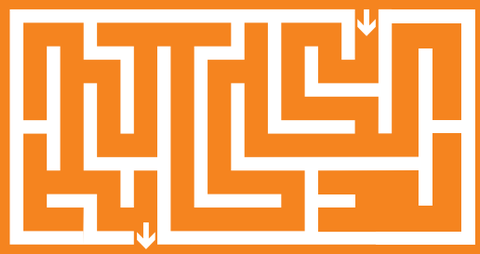

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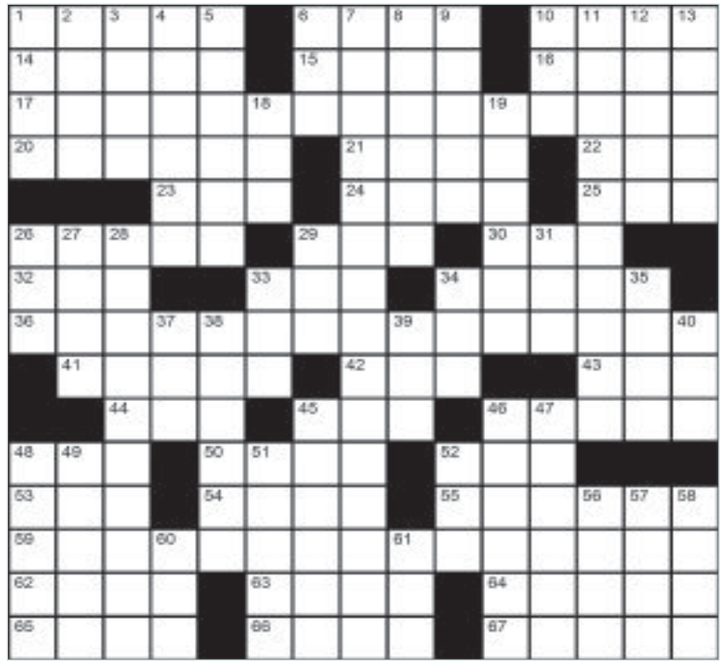
Yesterday's Crossword

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across

1. Ranching rope
6. "Cat on _ __ Tin Roof" (1958)
10. From square one
14. Angered
15. Michael of "Juno" (2007)
16. Way
17. The Purcells, for one: acr. + wd. + wd.
20. Postpone
21. Pick a politician
22. Nourished
23. 'Trick' suffix
24. Cosmology's original matter
25. Some badges, e.g.
26. No longer 'in'
29. Montreal Mrs.
30. Company name abbr.
32. Dadaist Jean
33. Defence contractor, with Systems
34. Bug varieties
36. Woodlands worry: 2 wds.
41. Stan's comedy partner, cute-style
42. Help
43. Poetic contraction
44. Test tube's li'l locale
45. Ctrl, Shift, __
46. Baseball Hall of Famer Mr. Sandberg's
48. Wane
50. Cutting remark
52. Racecar driver Mr. Fabi
53. Bovine's bellow
54. Sea wolf
55. NYC's infamous club, __ 54
59. Canadian ice dancing legends/ Olympians: 3 wds.
62. Eugene O'Neill play, __ Christie
63. "The King __ _" (1956)
64. Lucille Ball's co-star Desi
65. Many lipstick hues
66. Vocally vex
67. Like an annoying fly

Down

1. Ad-__ (Improvises)
2. Curve
3. Equivalent
4. Shoulder scarves
5. Hors d'__
6. Perform
7. Anvil and Helix, for example: 3 wds.
8. Baltimore baseball player
9. Aunt, in Montreal
10. Simon & Garfunkel's "I __ _ Rock"
11. Book genre
12. Created by U2's guitarist?
13. Unwanted plants
18. Napoleonic Wars marshal
19. Doing that sleep state thing, say
26. __-Man
27. Folkie Mr. Guthrie
28. 1945 Ingrid Bergman/Gregory Peck thriller
29. Egyptian __ (Cat breed)
31. Bug
33. Pre-A.D. time alternative
34. "Oh, __!" (1977)
35. Snick-or-__
37. _ __ carte
38. Gift box decoration
39. English __.
40. Li'l weight units
45. Secrets to some
46. Capture all over again
47. Lionel Richie song that starts "Baby you'll find / There's only one love...": 2 wds.
48. Put into a cell
49. American frontiersman Daniel (b.1734 - d.1820)
51. Backward on the boat
52. "How naughty!"
56. Mr. Aykroyd's
57. "Take __ __ face value."
58. Sharon's rocker hubby
60. Univ. dorm supervisors
61. Dunk

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